COCHIN
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BUDGET SESSION, 1117

Wednesday, *the* *5th August 1942* / *20th Karkadagam 1117*

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at Eleven of the clock with the Hon'ble the President (A. F. W. DIXON ESQ., C.I.E., I.C.S.) in the Chair.

Messrs. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan, T. Narayana Menon, Conservator of Forests and H. J. Walmesley, were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CENSUS REPORT—PUBLICATION OF

71. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Will Government be pleased to state (*a*) when the Census report will be published;

(*b*) who is now in charge of the work?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* (*a*) The Census report is expected to be published early in 1118.

(*b*) Mr. B. V. K. Menon.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Can I get a little more definite information about the connotation of the word 1118—whether it refers to Chingam, Kanni or Thulam?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* It is almost complete, I was told.

EXPENDITURE—PROPOSED EVACUATION OF THE SECRETARIAT

72. Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Will Government kindly state what expenditure was incurred by Government in connection with the proposed evacuation of the Huzur Secretariat to Trichur?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Rs. 269—4—0.

THEFT OF PAPER FROM GOVERNMENT PRESS

73. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the note appeared in the "Mathrubhumi" on 2nd July 1942 that there has been theft in the quantity of paper stored in the Government Press, Ernakulam, is a fact;

(*b*) if so, the number and names of the accused in that case;

(*c*) the quantity of paper lost and the approximate price now;

(*d*) the quantity of types stolen, if any, from the beginning of 1113 up to the 1st of Karkadagam 1117 and the approximate price of the same;

(*e*) whether Government has made any improvement in the working of the Government Press to hereafter prevent thieves succeeding in getting Government types, paper and other stationery articles?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) The matter is sub-judice.

(*b*), (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) No answer is necessary in view of the answer in (*a*).

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* There are two or three items—quantity of paper lost, that is one; quantity of types stolen; quantity of other stationery articles stolen from the beginning of 1113 to 1117. May I know whether all these things are sub-judice, or only the paper affair?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* We cannot say. Even with regard to paper, that will come out when the case is taken. We found one item of theft; we reported it to the police; they have charged the case. What all things will come out during the course of hearing in the court, we cannot say.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* What I mean to say is whether the charge was in connection with the stealing of paper alone, or with regard to types also along with the paper?

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It has been going on from the beginning of 1113 to Karkadagam 1117. I want to know whether it refers only to one case, or a number of cases?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: I have not seen the charge-sheet. I want notice.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: May I know whether the name of the accused is sub-judice?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General)*: That is not sub-judice. But the charge sheet is not before the Secretary to the Government. It forms part and parcel of the question.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: There have been a number of cases with regard to the stealing of types from the beginning of 1113. With regard to those matters which are not sub-judice, let us get some information. There have been a few cases with regard to the stealing of paper recently.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: I am not prepared even to admit that there was a theft with regard to paper now.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know whether the matter was sub-judice from 1113 to 1117, four years?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The incident that is under reference is not the incident of 1113. The incident under reference is a thing which took place about a month ago.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: We want to know whether any revelation has taken place from 1113 with regard to this department? We do not want to know exactly what were the things found missing, as far as the department is concerned.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The Government have to take a very cautious attitude. We do not know what will come out of this present enquiry. I do not want to say anything, whether a theft has occurred or has not occurred during these years.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Is any report regarding the stock entrusted to him received from the Superintendent of the Press at the end of every year?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The matter is sub-judice. I do not want to go into details in connection with this theft. If the Hon'ble Member puts the question in any other fashion, I am prepared to answer.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: The question is this. Is not the stock taken at the end of every year?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: All these questions of stock taking, whether there has been a theft and so many other matters—will come up at the time of enquiry into the case. So I am not prepared to answer them now.

Mr. President: I consider it is not desirable to go into these questions now. They may be raised after the enquiry. That is my ruling.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The case will be decided very soon.

REFERENCES TO BAR ASSOCIATION REGARDING BILLS

74. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Will Government be pleased to inform.—

(*a*) how many references to the Bar Association have been made during the last 5 years calling for their opinion on Bills under consideration by Government;

(*b*) (1) whether opinions have been submitted to Government by the Bar Association whenever called for;

(2) whether they have been considered; and

(3) the Bar Association informed as to the same;

(*c*) in how many cases have Government adopted the opinion of the Bar Association and in how many cases have they rejected the same;

(*d*) whether the Bar Association has been informed as to the progress of such Bills, after the submission of their opinion;

(*e*) whether draft Proclamations have been sent to Bar Association for opinion?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*:

(*a*) It is not possible to give the exact figure but important legislative measures such as the Agriculturists' Relief Bill, Kuries Bill, Verumpattam Bill, etc., have been sent to them for opinion.

(*b*) (1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) No.

(*c*) It is very difficult to give the number.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) No.

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